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INFO	LOG-00	AMAD-00	INL-00	PDI-00	OIGO-00	UTED-00	VCI-00
	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	VCIE-00	PER-00	GIWI-00
	DOHS-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00	BEG-00	R-00
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 FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3794
 OSD WASHDC PRIORITY
 WHITEHOUSE WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS VIENNA 001659

DEPT FOR EUR/AGS, INR/EU, AND EUR/PPD FOR LISBETH KEEFE

OSD FOR COMMANDER CHAFFEE

WHITEHOUSE FOR NSC/WEUROPE

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KPAO, AU, OPRC

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS: June 08, 2006

 Vienna Meeting on Bird Flu Strategy

1. Austrian media report on the conference held in Vienna and hosted by Austrian Minister for Health Maria Rauch-Kallat yesterday on measures to address the threat of avian influenza. The two-day meeting of high-level officials from more than 70 countries and international institutions also included representatives from the World Health Organization and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Experts from around the globe gathered in the Austrian capital to formulate a joint strategy to fight the spread of bird flu, semi-official daily "Wiener Zeitung" writes. The Vienna talks came six months after a donors' conference in Beijing, at which donors had pledged 1.5 billion Euros to combat the disease. The daily says experts believe an aggressive offensive against bird flu will be key in preventing it from mutating to where it could be transmitted from one human to another.

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U/S Dobriansky Says US Funds to Fight Bird Flu Will Be Paid within Months

2. . Associated Press headlines on June 7, reporting on the Vienna conference on avian influenza. The US representative at the meeting, Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky, said the United States would increase its contribution by 22 million Euros and disburse the remainder of the money it committed earlier this year -- a total of 260 million Euros, of which 55 million Euros have already been disbursed. At a PAS-arranged interview, the Under Secretary said the US is "working very aggressively and very expeditiously" towards addressing the threat posed by the H5N1 strain of bird flu. U/S Dobriansky also emphasized that participants at the conference expressed interest in helping Africa deal with bird flu, and another meeting focused on Africa was planned for later in the year, AP writes.

Low-Wage Jobs Have No Future in the US

3. centrist daily "Die Presse" headlines, quoting US Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao. In a PAS-arranged interview, Secretary Chao emphasized that a country "does best by its employees if it creates as many job opportunities as possible. In order to do so, we need economic growth, which is unlikely to be very strong with high taxes and an elaborate bureaucracy." The decisive question is "not how much money we can give jobless people, but rather how we can enable them to find employment again as quickly as possible. What kind of training or education do they need to find a job again: That is the best insurance against unemployment," Secretary Chao underscored. After all, "we do not want our workforce to compete for low-wage jobs -- they have no future in the US."

Efficient Cooperation with Our European Friends

4. . mass-circulation daily "Kurier" quotes Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of International Organizations James Warlick. In a PAS-arranged interview, Warlick discussed the controversy over Iran's nuclear program, stressing that Washington's pulling together with Europe on the issue was "genuine cooperation," not only with

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Europe, but also with Russia and China. He hopes that this joint position "is sending a very clear message to Tehran," in particular with regard to "how seriously the international community is taking the matter." The US and Europe "has common goals. We need a strategic dialogue with Europe in all institutions from NATO to the OSCE," Warlick said.

----- CIA Flights: US Rejects European Claims -----

5. Like all major Austrian media, ORF online news reports that Washington has criticized a Council of Europe report on alleged US secret prisons inside Europe. Poland and Romania, two of the 14 European states that allegedly colluded with the CIA on secret flights, have rejected the fresh claims that they hosted the prisons, while the UK, named as a CIA stopover, said the report contained nothing new. The report was prepared by Dick Marty, a Swiss senator for the Council of Europe. US State Department spokesman Sean McCormack described it as "a rehash of the previous efforts full of allegations, but thin on facts," ORF online quotes. Centrist daily "Die Presse" gives front-page coverage to the report, and writes it "uncovered a CIA spider web" all across Europe. The daily also quotes experts as warning the Council of Europe's report may merely be the "tip of the iceberg." According to Marianne Heuwig from Human Rights Watch, "there is still a lot to disclose." The daily quotes her as saying that, although the ball is now in the court of countries cited in the report, some of them "obviously have no interest in unearthing the truth."

----- Media Commentaries on Council of Europe Report -----

6. Foreign editor for centrist daily "Die Presse" Christian Ultsch states that Europeans "love to feel morally superior to Americans." Nonetheless, "14 countries of the Old Continent, which is so elevated morally, have cooperated with the CIA on various prisoner transports. And the affair is not to be waved off with reference to lack of proof. There are many documented individual cases that demonstrate that the US intelligence service has kidnapped suspects as well as innocent persons. That was only possible thanks to the assistance of its European colleagues. While governments from Stockholm to Berlin raged against the excesses of the anti-terror war, their intelligence services cooperated with the Americans. That is Europe's moral superiority."

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Foreign affairs writer for liberal daily "Der Standard"
Adelheid Wlfl comments: "The moral finger Europeans like to point at the US anti-terror strategy should be withdrawn as long as they are not capable of holding the collaborators in their own countries responsible. The strategy to gather information by withholding suspects from the legal system rather than bringing them before the court is a breach of the most important principles of our legal tradition."

Row Between US and UN

7. A row has broken out between the United States and the United Nations over comments made by Deputy Secretary General Mark Malloch Brown, ORF online news and ORF radio early morning news "Morgenjournal" report. Malloch Brown complained that Washington did not stand up for the UN against domestic critics, and used the organization as a diplomatic tool. This prompted a sharp response from America's Ambassador to the UN, John Bolton, who demanded the Secretary General take action. ORF radio quotes Bolton as stressing his belief that Secretary General Kofi Annan "has to personally and publicly repudiate this speech at the earliest possible opportunity." Malloch Brown said he had not intended to make a polarizing speech, and also warned of an impending financial crisis at the UN. According to ORF online, Kofi Annan has refused to call to order his deputy over what the Bolton labeled "unacceptable criticism" of the US. His spokesperson stated that the Secretary General "supported the thrust of the speech and stood by his deputy."

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